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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Crowder et al. :
Application No. 10/606,676 : DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: 26 June, 2003 :
Atty Dckt No. 9336-9 :

This is a decision in reference to the petition filed on 16 October, 2003, which is treated as a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.10(c), requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of 26 June, 2003, rather than the currently-accorded filing date of 27 June, 2003.

The Office apologizes for the delay in responding to the present petition and regrets any inconvenience to petitioners.

The petition is granted.

Petitioners assert that the application was deposited in Express Mail service on 22 December, 2003. In support of petitioners' contention that the application was deposited in Express Mail Post Office to Addressee Service on 22 December, 2003, petitioners supplied, with the present petition, a copy of Express Mail Customer Label No. EV353611696US (the same Express Mail number found on the itemized transmittal sheet filed with the original application papers located in the official file).

Although the pickup date on the copy of the Express Mail Label provided has not been completed, the Express Mail Label bears an official USPS postmark dated 26 June, 2003. Additionally, petitioners provided a copy of a printout from the USPS Internet Track & Confirm Database, revealing that this Express Mail Label No. was accepted by the USPS on 26 June, 2003.

In view of the above, the petition is granted. No petition fee is required.

The application is being returned to Office of Initial Patent Examination for reprocessing with a filing date of 26 June, 2003, not 27 June, 2003, and for issuance of a corrected Filing Receipt.

Telephone inquiries may be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Wood", written in a cursive style.

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions